



**SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**CHIEF OF POLICE**  
**CRAIG N. MEIDL**

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**Strategic Initiatives**  
January 2024 Report



**Public Safety and Community Health Committee Briefing**  
**January 2024**



**Excerpts of Commendations**  
**(Personal Identifying Information has been removed)**

I was involved in a four-car accident. **Officer Daniel Estrada** responded. He was very professional and knowledgeable. However, he was much more than that. He was exceedingly kind, patient, compassionate and caring. I was very impressed with his demeanor. What great representation for the Spokane Police Department. You should feel proud of Officer Estrada and feel lucky he's on your team. You should give him a great big fat raise or at least a decent cup of coffee.

Just a quick email to tell you how much we appreciate the work of **Detective Craig Wendt** from your department. He was very professional and kept us updated as the investigation proceeded. He was swift to react to our requests and my staff and I are very pleased to have his assistance.

I commend **Officer [Michele] Kernkamp** for her very thorough and dedicated police work. This was not just another "routine burglary" for her. She took a personal interest in what had happened to us, treating it seriously and was able to thoughtfully piece together seemingly disconnected information so there was a clear picture of the situation. This brought us great peace of mind, because we had a strong concern that the individual would come back after he had seen valuable items he could break in and take later. Her assurance that the suspect had been arrested was very helpful. I commend Officer Kernkamp for a job well done, but also commend you and your SPD leadership for the high standard you have set of professionalism, integrity, and compassion. You are building trust, keeping the citizens safe, and from what I have observed in a number of situations, are an exemplary police department that we are very thankful for!

I want to give a shout out to **Sergeant Matt Rose!!** He's been absolutely amazing helping the Chief Garry Park Neighborhood with our monumental homeless issues. He responds to emails very quickly, shows up to every neighborhood council meeting, listens to us and actually does something about the issues brought to his attention. He follows up and lets us know what he can do and what we can do. So before you leave please give him some recognition for his efforts!!

I wanted to express a "Tip of the Cap" to two of your officers that responded to a request for service earlier this evening. It was Officer Dowsing and Officer Johnson who were working downtown precinct tonight. The support, coordination, and understanding that they exhibited should be a model for all [**Officer William Dowsing and Corporal Chris Johnson**].



<https://myspokane.org/police/accountability>

The Office of Professional Accountability posts a vast amount of information on the department website. For example, the department’s progress with collaborative reform, the policy manual, the strategic plan, and information about filing a complaint.

## Office of Professional Accountability

The mission of Office of Professional Accountability is to provide for oversight of the complaint process; to promote public awareness of and full access to that process; and to advance reforms that increase police accountability by the Spokane Police Department.

### Items of Interest

- [2021 OPA FAQ Complaint Process Flyer](#) (PDF 1 MB)
- [Spokane Police Department Collaborative Reform Progress Report 2018](#) (PDF 8.3 MB)
- [Spokane Police Department 2022–2023 Strategic Plan](#) (PDF 6.0 MB)
- [SPD Policy Manual – Effective November 13, 2023](#) (PDF 8.8 MB)

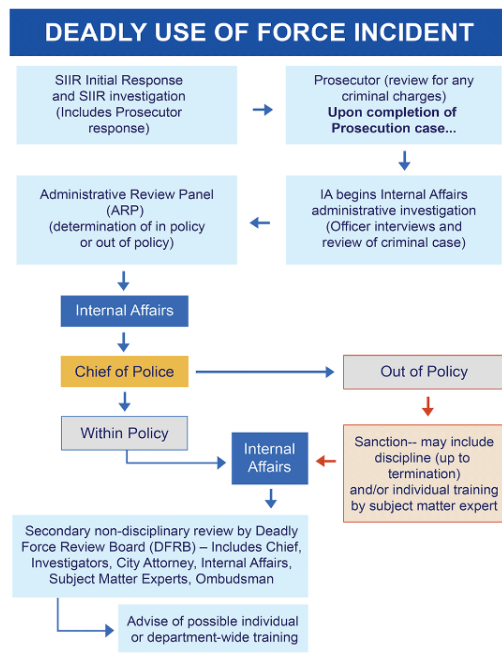
Officer-Involved Shootings are of interest to the public, and SPD provides information about past shootings. The “List of Deadly Force Incidents and Fatalities, 2011-2023” document contains demographic information. The investigation protocol is also available online.

## Officer Involved Shootings

The Spokane Police Department, in cooperation with the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office and the Washington State Patrol, has established the Spokane Independent Investigative Response Team (SIIR) to mobilize and coordinate external investigative resources in the case of deadly force incidents.

The SIIR team operates under an established [protocol to investigate officer-involved fatal incidents](#) (PDF 878 KB). The protocol defines when and how the team is activated, its responsibilities and procedures relating to the investigation, reporting and public communication. The protocol is reviewed regularly and updated accordingly.

You can view the [List of Deadly Force Incidents and Fatalities, 2011-2023](#). (PDF 132 KB)



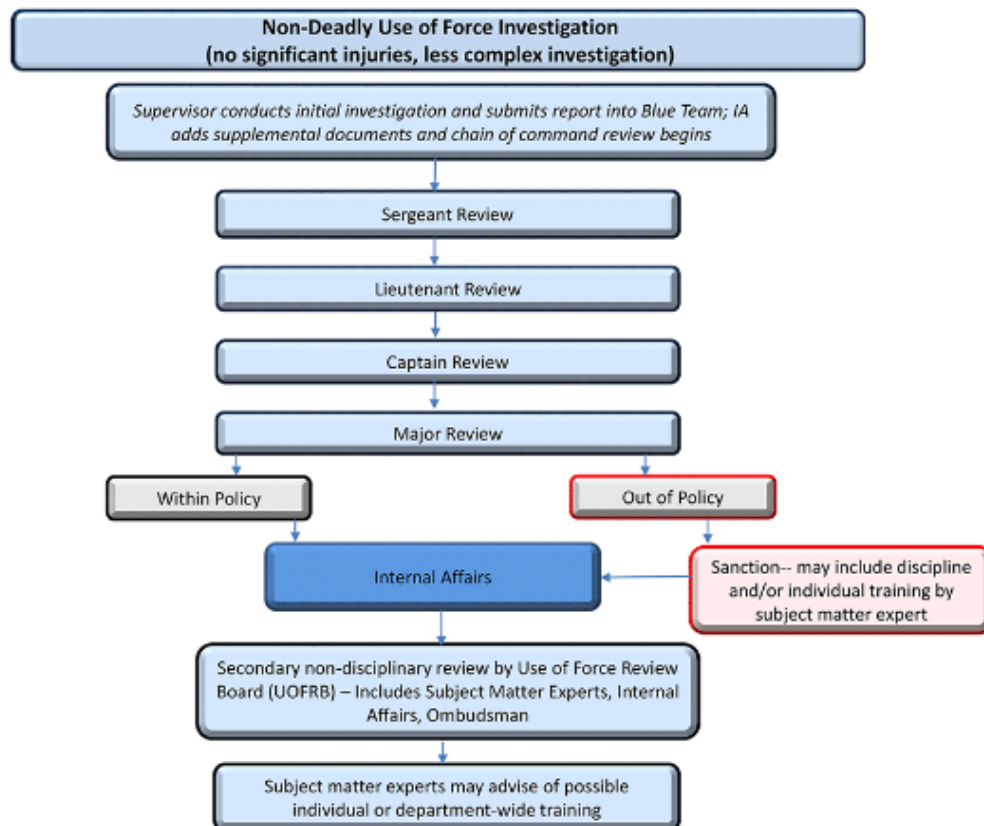
The Use of Force page lists annual reports, a flow chart explaining the investigation process, and summaries of individual use of force incidents.

## Use of Force

The use of force by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern, both to the public and to the law enforcement community.

SPD conducts an annual Comprehensive Analysis of Reportable Use of Force Incidents. The primary purpose of the analysis is to provide Spokane Police Department information about officers' use of force and trends associated with use of force. The analysis provides information on many factors involving the subjects and involved officers, as well as environmental details. It also describes the training issues that were identified during the incident review. SPD's Training Unit and the Training Plan Committee use the information in the report to assist in their development of training curriculum. The report also serves to inform the community about SPD's use of force. See links to previous analyses.

- [Use of Force Comprehensive Analysis 2022](#) (PDF 1.3 MB)
- [Use of Force Comprehensive Analysis 2021](#) (PDF 1.2 MB)
- [Use of Force Comprehensive Analysis 2020](#) (PDF 1.3 MB)
- [Use of Force Comprehensive Analysis 2019](#) (PDF 1.4 MB)



The Complaint page has complaint forms available in several languages and an online complaint form.

<https://my.spokanecity.org/police/accountability/complaints/>

## Internal Affairs Complaints

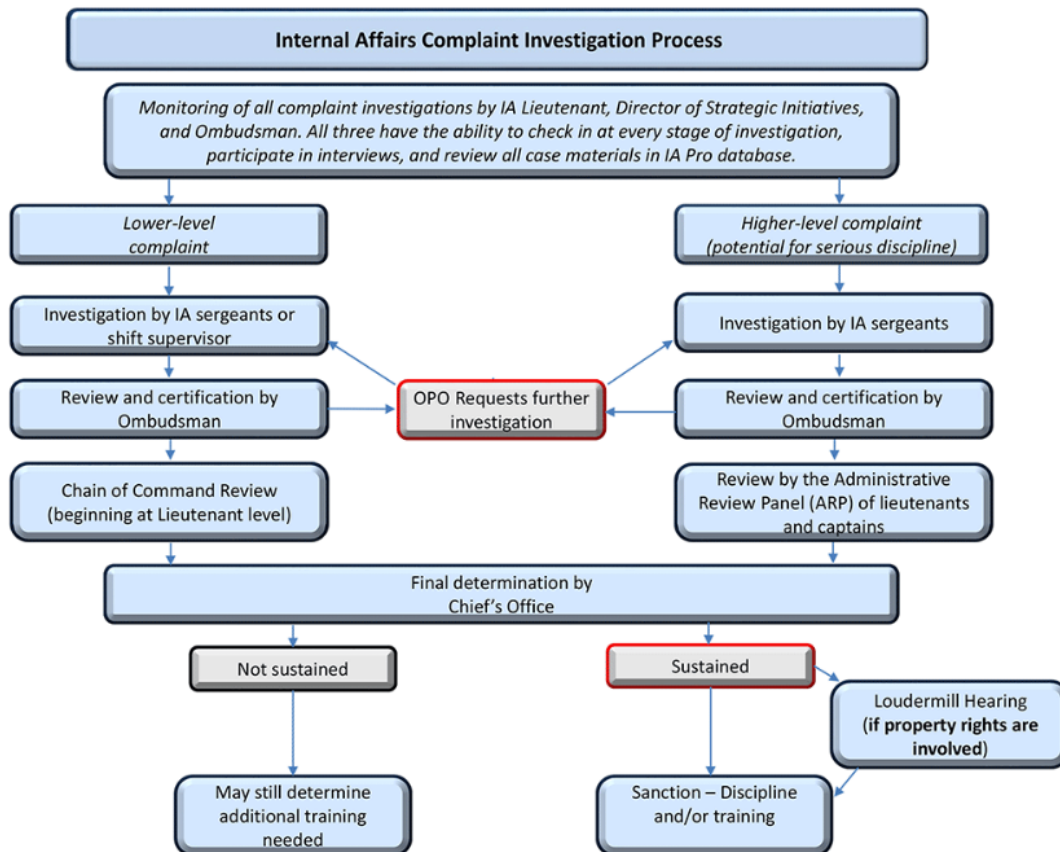
The Spokane Police Department welcomes inquiries from the community concerning the performance of our employees. Investigation of these situations often allows us to assess the actions our employees with the ultimate objective of improving service. For more information on the Personnel Complaint Procedure, please visit our website and view Policy 1020 of the current Policy Manual.

To submit a complaint, please fill out the IA Complaint Form. You will soon be contacted about your complaint by the Internal Affairs investigator

If you prefer, you can complete and submit the [online complaint form](#).

- [English](#) (PDF 245 KB)
- [French](#) (PDF 208 KB)
- [German](#) (PDF 158 KB)
- [Russian](#) (PDF 326 KB)
- [Spanish](#) (PDF 219 KB)
- [Vietnamese](#) (PDF 366 KB)

There is also a flow chart of the investigation process, and summaries of complaints.



Public Safety Briefings from 2014-2023 are also available.



**January 1 through November 30, 2023, Commendations and Complaints**

Commendations Received:   **Total: 248**

Complaints Received:       **Total: 75 (64 from community)**

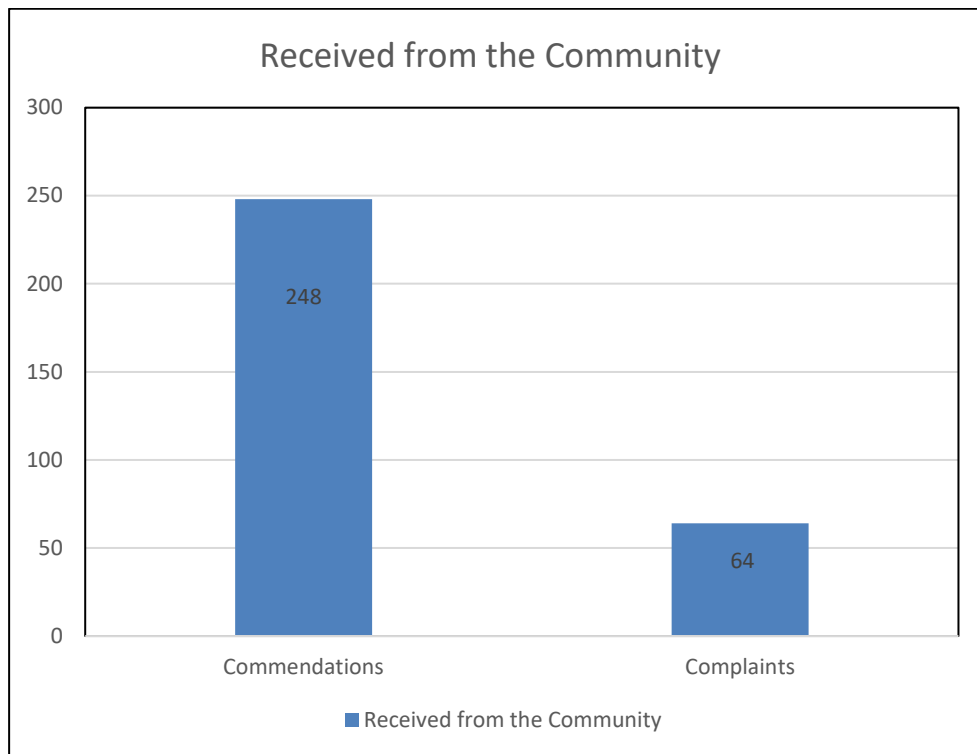
**Closed Out as Inquiries: 2 (As of November 30, 2023)**

*An inquiry is an initial complaint about employee conduct which, even if true, would not qualify as a personnel complaint and may be handled informally by a department supervisor and shall not be considered complaints.*

**Source of Complaints—January 1 through November 30, 2023**

Received by the Office of Police Ombudsman	<b>Total: 35</b>
Received by the Spokane Police Department	<b>Total: 40</b>
Internally Generated by the SPD	<b>Total: 11</b>
Generated by the Community	<b>Total: 64</b>

The department consistently receives more commendations from the community than complaints.





Deadly Force Incidents (Officer-Involved Shootings)

**2023**

From January 1 – December 31, 2023, there were two deadly force incidents.

**Incident 2023-20088146 (Pending Criminal Investigation)**

Incident 2023-20088146 took place on May 10, 2023, in the area of 5<sup>th</sup> and Browne. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.

**Incident 2023-20238146 (Pending Criminal Investigation)**

Incident 2023-20238146 took place on December 3, 2023, in the 9200 block of Colton Street. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.

**2022**

From January 1- December 31, 2022, there were five deadly force incidents.

**Incident 2022-20012711 (Closed)**

**Incident 2022-20134271 (Pending Criminal Investigation)**

2022-20134271 took place on August 3, 2022, in the area of 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sheridan. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.

**Incident 2022-20156670 (Pending Criminal Investigation)**

2022-20156670 took place on September 4, 2022, in the area of 2900 E. Wabash Avenue. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.

**Incident 2022-20184192 (Pending Criminal Investigation)**

2022-20184192 took place on October 16, 2022, in the area of 100 S Cedar. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) is conducting the criminal investigation.

**Incident 2022-20214924 (Pending Prosecutor Review)**

2022-20214924 took place on December 4, 2022, in the area of Morton and Illinois. The Spokane Independent Investigative Response (SIIR) completed the criminal investigation. The case is with the Prosecutor's Office.



## Property Crime Enforcement

The Stolen Property Enforcement and Recovery (SPEAR) Unit received the Chief's Citation Award for their work with property crimes. The SPEAR team recently led the task force on the stolen Kia and Hyundai vehicle thefts. SPEAR located the two main suspects, and both were in custody within days. SPEAR also worked carefully with businesses being victimized and ran a series of successful undercover specials. From January 1-June 22, 2023, SPEAR charged 176 individuals with 358 new felony charges and 160 misdemeanor charges. They've recovered stolen property items and funds, including \$30,546 from a PTA embezzlement case and antiques from a Gonzaga University museum burglary. SPEAR seized dozens of firearms. Under Sgt. Brian Eckersley's leadership, SPEAR members are team players and are known for work to identify suspects for all kinds of criminal cases.

## Hiring and Recruiting

### New Officers

In a thirty-day period, SPD will have 12 new officers. SPD is welcoming five new lateral officers in December 2023. SPD will swear in one new officer in December and six new officers on January 3, 2023. The new entry-level officers will begin Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) after they are sworn in.

Below, Chief Meidl with new hires on December 11, 2023.



## Drug Education

In 2023, the Community Outreach Unit provided 38 presentations that included drug education – at schools, colleges, community centers, shelters, Boys and Girls Clubs, scout troops, and service agencies like Lutheran Community Services Northwest. Officers also presented education at the Police Activities League.





### Charlie Sector (South Precinct)

Captain Matt Cowles of the South Precinct shared various community outreach activities throughout the year:

- Roll Call with a Cop: This event was held at Fresh Soul Restaurant with business owner and community leader Michael Brown. All mid-shift patrol officers attended roll call at the restaurant as they started their shifts. Officers were able to meet with East Central neighborhood residents at the event. Mayor Woodward and City Council Persons Wilkerson and Cathcart also attended. The event was a partnership with Fresh Soul, Spokane Eastside Neighborhood Reunion (SERA), and Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Coalition (GSSAC). Fresh Soul provided delicious food to all who attended, and the cost was donated by GSSAC.
- Roll Call with a Cop: Mid-shift Sergeant Rose held the team roll call at a coffee stand in the Iron Bridge neighborhood in East Trent to get to know the area and meet residents there.
- Conversations with a Cop: South Precinct officers participated in this event, sponsored by Starbucks Coffee at 36<sup>th</sup> and Grand, and Holly Tollefson.
- SPD Volunteers have joined food bank staff in giving out food to patrons and joining the senior lunch at the MLK Center with Spokane C.O.P.S. Staff.
- The Community Outreach sergeant's office is at the South Precinct.
- Mid-shift patrol sergeants are attending as many community meetings as they can while meeting patrol responsibilities.
- Captain Cowles and Sergeant Rose personally reached out to Odyssey Youth Center during the incidents of vandalism. All Patrol teams participated in prowl checks at the location. Captain Cowles joined a walk for awareness and the celebration of the re-painting of the crosswalk.
- South Precinct officers assisted with the Summer PAL Program.
- Patrol teams are involved in continuing presence and routine contact with the Jewish Temple and Chabad of Spokane.
- All patrol shifts, including graveyard, have been visiting businesses near the TRAC Center to keep ongoing discussion about the conditions around their area. Businesses are very appreciative of SPD's presence and help.
- Lieutenant Preuninger has taught six Response to Violence classes to area businesses, organizations, and churches.
- Lieutenant Kernkamp and his patrol teams have been reaching out to the residents of the Cliff Park neighborhoods to mitigate issues with the overlook with reckless driving, drugs, gangs, and other neighborhood issues there.
- Sergeant Rose has been meeting with neighborhood council leaders on problem areas in the Chief Garry Neighborhood.



- Captain Cowles has been in continual contact with the leadership of Lewis and Clark and Ferris High Schools, building a great relationship between our organizations. Lieutenant Preuninger has been building relationships with the middle school principals of schools in the South Precinct.
- Captain Cowles and Sergeant Wells attended a community unveiling of a mural honoring East Central Community Members at the Carl Maxey Center. The mural is entitled “This is East Central” (storiesofeastcentral.com)
- On Thanksgiving day, Sergeant Rose and his patrol team joined Michael Brown and Fresh Soul with their Turkey Give-Away event.
- Sergeant Rose conducted several prowl checks and walks/business contacts in the Union District to gauge community concerns in the area and to monitor any criminal or nuisance activity. He attended the community event, “Holiday on the Ave.” Sergeant Rose checked in with several business on E. Sprague (Mending Fences, Truth Ministries, Union Tavern, Blue Cat, The Barber Shop, Rusty Mug).

The South Precinct has been strategically building a relationship with the area hospitals to coordinate our responses to community health issues. These efforts have included:

- Meeting with the executive staff / Nursing Staff / and security at both Deaconess and Sacred Heart Hospitals to forge a path forward and identify common goals and objectives.
- Arranging for ride along experiences for any of their staff who are interested in order to build relationships between line personnel.
- Officers, Sergeants, and Lieutenants are joining Sacred Heart Medical Center’s safety training to build connections and understand mutual policies and practices.
- Offering SPD Enhancing the Survival Mindset courses to their staff. These classes teach situational awareness and safety principles.
- Hosting a Forum with Sacred Heart, Deaconess, Holy Family, and Spokane Valley Hospital at South Precinct to set the stage for continued collaboration on community health issues including mental health and drug impaired patients / assaults on staff / officer response / and the collaborative means to work through them. This was attended by about 50 people and is leading to continuing progress!

**SPD Chaplaincy and Community Outreach – Pink Patch Campaign**

Through sales of the Pink Patch (shown below), SPD Chaplains and Community Outreach Unit raised \$3500.00 for Cancer Can’t. Cancer Can’t is a nonprofit 501c3 providing support for the daily needs of adult cancer patients and their families.





## Community Outreach – Adopt A Family

### Adopt-A-Family

The Community Outreach Unit works with our partners Spokane Police Foundation, Les Schwab, Christian Brothers Automotive, and Teen and Kid Closet to bring Christmas gifts to 20 families recommended by local school counselors, teachers, nonprofit agencies, and patrol officers who encountered families in crisis.

'We don't have to stress now': Spokane Police, Teen & Kid Closet team up to deliver Christmas joy

[https://www.kxly.com/news/we-dont-have-to-stress-now-spokane-police-teen-kid-closet-team-up-to-deliver/article\\_51b808c6-994d-11ee-a6f3-9f5553295ce3.html](https://www.kxly.com/news/we-dont-have-to-stress-now-spokane-police-teen-kid-closet-team-up-to-deliver/article_51b808c6-994d-11ee-a6f3-9f5553295ce3.html)



### Christmas Shop with a Cop at Target



On December 10, 2023, the South Hill Target generously provided \$2500.00 for ten children to shop with an officer. The children, housed in transitional housing by the Salvation Army, were able to pick out \$250.00 worth of clothes and toys. At left, Spokane Police Officers and volunteers pose with Salvation Army and Target employees after shopping. Many of the children had been placed in protective custody by police officers, so it was especially helpful for them to have a positive experience with law enforcement. Thank you to Target for giving the children the opportunity.

## Crime Prevention Education

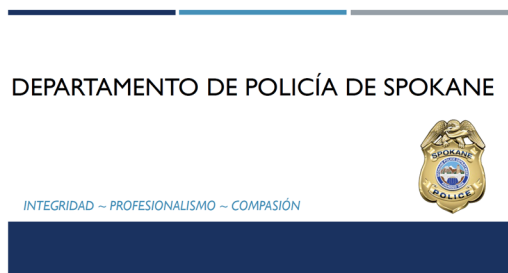
Detective Tim Schwering created a presentation about what he's seeing as he's investigating fraud cases, with people being victimized by crypto currency scams. Recent scamming methods often start out as a "wrong number" text or call, where the scammer tries to connect, or victims are targeted through social

media and LinkedIn and dating sites. Detective Schwering explains how the scammers try to gain trust and then victimize people, how scammers try to get them to mail prepaid cards or invest in cryptocurrency, as well as what to do you if you are a victim. SPD has reached out to several community groups and all the neighborhood councils to see if they are interested in hosting a presentation. Many of the neighborhood councils are interested in future dates.

SPD worked with Thrive International to have presentations with interpreters, with information for Slavic, Arabic, and Afghani communities. Thrive translated the Power Point documents into Ukrainian, Russian, Pashto, Dari/Farsi, and Arabic. These presentations are available to share via email.



Detective Schwering is also working with Mujeres in Action to create a presentation in Spanish that focuses on a wide range of online scams targeting Spanish speakers.



Presentations so far have included:

- SPD Patrol roll call
- Regional Special Investigation Unit Teams
- Spokane C.O.P.S. Staff
- Lutheran Community Services Northwest
- City of Spokane Public Safety and Community Health Committee
- Spokane Aurora Northwest Rotary Club
- Spokane United We Stand (Asian communities)
- West Hills Neighborhood Council
- Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council
- Nevada Heights Neighborhood Council
- East Central Neighborhood Council
- Later in Life and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Task Force
- Carl Maxey Center
- Spokane Regional Domestic Violence Coalition
- Spokane C.O.P.S. Volunteers
- Thrive International
- Mujeres in Action

In January, there are multiple presentations at Senior Living and Retirement Facilities, such as Harvard Park, Cherrywood Place, Hillyard Senior Center, and Park Tower Apartments.

If you are interested in having Detective Schwering present to your group, please contact him at [tschwering@spokanepolice.org](mailto:tschwering@spokanepolice.org).

### SPD Volunteers

SPD Volunteers worked closely with Community Outreach throughout December, participating in Shop with a Cop events supporting low-income children, and they helped with the wrapping and delivery of Christmas presents for multiple families.

Below, our Chaplains helping with Christmas wrapping:





Below, Chief Meidl with longtime volunteer John Case.



*“Serving our community with Integrity, Professionalism, and  
Compassion”*

